

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
LOG OF MEETING

Products Identified

Excepted by

Firms Notified,

Comments Received.

SUBJECT: Grand Opening of CSA International Water Heater  
Test Facility

DATE OF MEETING: October 21, 1999

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer

ENTRY DATE: November 1, 1999

PLACE: CSA International, 8501 E. Pleasant Valley Rd  
Independence, Ohio

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Donald W. Switzer

## NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Robert Griffin

Spence Greico

George Gruss

Jack Langmead

Other CSA International Staff

CEO of CSA International

Vice President of U.S. Operations,  
CSA

Director of Certification, CSA

Water Heater Consortium

SUMMARY OF MEETING: CPSCS staff was invited to make a short presentation  
at the grand opening. Staff made the attached presentation.

MANY OF US ARE AWARE OF THE TRAGEDIES THAT CAN  
OCCUR WHEN FLAMMABLE VAPORS COME INTO CONTACT WITH  
GAS-FIRED WATER HEATERS: NEARLY 2,000 FIRES, 320 INJURIES AND  
20 DEATHS YEARLY.

THERE WERE SOME WHO TOLD US THIS PROBLEM WAS  
"UNSOLVABLE." BUT WE DIDN'T AGREE, AND NEITHER DID SOME  
COMPANIES WITHIN THE WATER HEATER INDUSTRY.

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CPSC/OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY

AT CPSC's URGING, THE WATER HEATER INDUSTRY IS WORKING ON A WIDE RANGE OF TECHNOLOGIES TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM.

WATER HEATER MANUFACTURERS ARE NOW FIELD TESTING WORKABLE AND MARKETABLE TECHNOLOGIES TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM BY REDUCING THE POSSIBILITY OF VAPOR IGNITION BY WATER HEATERS.

HOWEVER, BEFORE THESE PRODUCTS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE MARKET PLACE, THEY MUST BE DESIGN CERTIFIED TO OPERATE MORE SAFELY WHEN SURROUNDED BY FLAMMABLE VAPORS.

TO CERTIFY THESE NEW DESIGNS THERE MUST BE A STANDARD AND A FACILITY TO TEST THE DESIGNS.

AN ADEQUATE STANDARD HAS BEEN DEVELOPED, AND THANKS TO CSA INTERNATIONAL, THERE IS NOW A FACILITY TO

TEST THESE PRODUCTS.

ON BEHALF OF THE CPSC STAFF, CONGRATULATIONS TO CSA  
INTERNATIONAL FOR A JOB WELL AND TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE  
CONTRIBUTED TO KEEPING CONSUMERS SAFER.